

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 8. In Figure 8, transistor Q10 is identified as a GO₂ transistor as described in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0057].

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed February 14, 2008, claims 1-14 were rejected. In response, Applicants have amended claim 6. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claim and the below-provided remarks. No claims have been added or canceled.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mentze et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,030,654, hereinafter Mentze). Claims 6, 7, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mentze in view of Parkinson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,889,415, hereinafter Parkinson). Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mentze in view of Parkinson and Chen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 7,193,441, hereinafter Chen). Additionally, claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mentze in further of Rhee et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0000949, hereinafter Rhee). However, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Mentze, Parkinson, Chen, and Rhee for the reasons provided below.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites:

"A voltage driver circuit for driving a device at a selected one of a plurality of voltages associated with respective device operations including a high voltage operation and a relatively lower voltage operation, the driver circuit comprising an input (IN), a single output (OUT) for connection to said device, and a plurality of voltage drivers between said input and said output including at least one high voltage breakdown driver and at least one relatively lower breakdown voltage driver the circuit being arranged such that, during a high voltage operation, said high voltage breakdown driver is connected to said output and there is a substantially zero voltage drop across said relatively lower breakdown voltage driver, and, during a relatively lower voltage operation, said relatively lower breakdown voltage driver provides the drive voltage for driving said device, the contribution of said high breakdown voltage driver to said drive voltage during said relatively lower voltage operation being substantially negligible." (emphasis added).

In contrast to claim 1, Mentze does not disclose that “during a high voltage operation, said high voltage breakdown driver is connected to said output and there is a substantially zero voltage drop across said relatively lower breakdown voltage driver.” In particular, Mentze discloses that a relatively lower breakdown voltage driver is utilized as an inverter and driven by an input voltage (see column 3 lines 29-30, column 4 lines 66-67, and column 5 lines 1-3 of Mentze). The relatively lower breakdown voltage driver generates an inverted signal to drive an output buffer stage during high voltage operations and low voltage operations (see Fig. 5, column 5 lines 66-67, and column 6 lines 1-4 of Mentze). Although Mentze discloses a relatively lower breakdown voltage driver, a high voltage breakdown driver, high voltage operations, and low voltage operations, Mentze does not disclose that there is a substantially zero voltage drop across the relatively lower breakdown voltage driver during a high voltage operation as recited in claim 1.

Because Mentze does not disclose that “during a high voltage operation, said high voltage breakdown driver is connected to said output and there is a substantially zero voltage drop across said relatively lower breakdown voltage driver”, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is not anticipated by Mentze.

Dependent Claims 2-5 and 12-14

Claims 2-5 and 12-14 are dependent on claim 1. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2-5 and 12-14 are allowable at least based on an allowable claim 1.

Independent Claim 6

Claim 6 has been amended to particularly point out that “the voltage driver circuit being arranged such that, during a high voltage operation, there is a substantially zero voltage drop across said relatively lower breakdown voltage driver.” Support for the amendment is found in Applicants’ specification at, for example, claim 1 and paragraph [0057]. As amended claim 6 recites,

“A voltage driver circuit for driving a device at a selected one of a plurality of voltages associated with respective device operations including a high voltage operation and a relatively lower voltage operation, the driver circuit comprising an input (IN), a single output (OUT) for connection to said device, and a plurality of voltage drivers between said input and said output including at least one high

voltage breakdown driver and at least one relatively lower breakdown voltage driver the high breakdown voltage driver comprising a voltage level shifter which is connected at the input of the circuit between first and second voltage lines, the output of said level shifter being connected to the input of a relatively lower breakdown voltage driver connected to the output between said first and second voltage lines, the voltage driver circuit being arranged such that, during a high voltage operation, there is a substantially zero voltage drop across said relatively lower breakdown voltage driver." (emphasis added).

Claim 6 has been amended to include similar limitations to claim 1. In view of the amendments to claim 6, remarks made above with regard to claim 1 apply also to claim 6.

Dependent Claims 7-11

Claims 7-11 are dependent on claim 6. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 7-11 are allowable at least based on an allowable claim 6.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 50-3444 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account 50-3444 under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

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Respectfully submitted,

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